**Foodgrains allocated under Food for Work Programme to Rajasthan**

205. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains allocated to the State of Rajasthan under Food for Work Programme during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) whether any special quota of foodgrains has been sanctioned by the Centre for Rajasthan keeping in view acute drought conditions in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The quantity of foodgrains allocated to the State of Rajasthan under the Food for Work Programme (FFWP), during the last two years is given as under

| YEAR | QUANTITY OF FOODGRAINS (in metric tonnes) |
|---|---|
| 2000-2001 | 1,18,145 |
| 2001-2002 | 6,21,360 |

(b) and (c) 2 lakh tonnes of foodgrains (wheat) have been released under the Special Component of the SGRY during the current year in view of the acute drought condition in the State.

**Grants for development of handicrafts in Assam**

206. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount granted to the State of Assam for promotion and development of handicrafts in the State of Assam during the last three years;

(b) whether any effective scheme has been chalked out for the State in this regard; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No funds are released to the Sate Government directly by the Government for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country. However, the schemes of the Government envisage release of funds to State Handicrafts Development Corporations/Apex Societies/NGOs etc. for undertaking various handicrafts activities. The details of amount released to these agencies in the State of Assam for promotion and development of handicrafts during the last three years is as udner:—

| Sl.No. | Years | Amount released (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 1999-2000 | 116.70 |
| 2. | 2000-2001 | 129.95 |
| 3. | 2001-2002 | 133.60 |

(b) and (c) No specific State-wise scheme has been chalked out in the Handicrafts sector. However, the States falling under the ambit of North East Region enjoy preference in terms of allocation of budget in the Handicrafts sector. A share of 10% of the total budget outlay of Handicrafts sector annually is earmarked for this region.

For promotion and development of handicrafts in the country including in the State of Assam the Government has been implementing a number of schemes which includes: AHVY, training and extension, design and technical upgradation, marketing support and services, research and development, financial assistance to State handicrafts development corporation/apex societies and export promotion etc. Recently launched "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana" (AHVY) seeks to develop selected artisans clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation and aims to achieve sustainable development of the sector.